

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Official Action dated 03 November 2004 has been carefully considered, along with cited references, applicable sections of the Patent Act, Patent Rules, the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure and relevant decisional law.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1 and 2 are replete with limitations lacking antecedent basis, e.g. the inner circumference, its front end, the front and rear limiting positions, etc.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmidt (DE 4243650 A1) in view of Huang (6,154,108).

Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is significantly different from that of the cited arts as can be seen from their respective structures. Applicant's invention as specified in the newly added claims 3 and 4 is patentably distinguishable over these references when taken either singularly or in combination for the following reasons:

The Examiner cites Schmidt ('650) as an example disclosing a connecting shaft device for screws having a sliding sleeve, the sleeve having slant grooves inside, a steel ball, a ring groove, a connecting shaft having a groove for sleeving an elastic element and a tool head connecting hole, and a tool head having a concave dot for positioning the steel ball. Thus, Schmidt ('650) discloses the

claimed invention except for the provision of a magnetic element on the screw engaging end of the device, for temporarily positioning a screw.

The Examiner then further cites Huang as an example disclosing a connecting shaft device for screws. Huang teaches that it would be desirable to provide a magnetic element having a through hole on the inner circumference of the sliding sleeve, in order to attract a fastener to the tool and for allowing the fastener to be easily driven by the tool.

However, as kindly noted by the Examiner, Schmidt ('650) failed to provide a magnetic element on the screw engaging end of the device, for temporarily positioning a screw. Actually, Schmidt ('650) discloses a sleeve 5 slidably engaged onto a bush 2, but may be engaged with an O-ring 18 that is provided and engaged on the front end of the bush 2, such that the sleeve 5 may not be moved and extended out of the bush 2, and such that the sleeve 5 may not be moved and adjusted relative to the screwdriver bit 4, and such that the screwdriver bit 4 also may not be adjustably received within the sleeve 5.

In Huang, the body 11 is detachably secured onto the driving tool 60 with a spring-biased ball 18, and the magnet 30 is secured to the body 11, such that the body 11 and the magnet 30 are both detachably secured onto the driving tool 60 and rotated in concert with the driving tool 60, and such that the body 11 and the magnet 30 may not be moved or adjusted relative to the driving tool 60 once the spring-biased ball 18 is engaged into the peripheral groove 63 of the driving tool 60; i.e., the body 11 may not be moved or adjusted

relative to the driving tool 60, and thus may not adjust the magnet 30 relative to the driving tool 60.

By contrast, in Applicant's invention, as amended in the newly added claims 3 and 4, the tool head (50) is engaged in the connecting hole (22) of the connecting shaft (20) and thus secured and moved in concert with the connecting shaft (20), and the magnetic element (11) is disposed in the front end of the sliding sleeve (10) that is slidably engaged onto the connecting shaft (20), and the sliding sleeve (10) includes slant grooves (12, 13) formed therein for receiving the elastic element (30), to determine front and rear limiting positions of the sliding sleeve (10) relative to the connecting shaft (20), and thus to allow the sliding sleeve (10) and the magnetic element (11) to be slid and moved and adjusted relative to the connecting shaft (20).

Accordingly, the magnetic element (11) may be slid and adjusted relative to the tool head (50) by moving and adjusting the sliding sleeve (10) relative to the connecting shaft (20), to suitably attach or attract screws (52) to the tool heads (50) of different lengths, and simultaneously, the sliding sleeve (10) includes slant grooves (12, 13) for receiving the elastic element (30), to determine front and rear limiting positions of the sliding sleeve (10) relative to the connecting shaft (20), and also to prevent the sliding sleeve (10) from being disengaged from the connecting shaft (20).

The cited arts fail to teach a magnetic element (11) attached to a sliding sleeve (10) that may be slid and adjusted relative to the connecting shaft (20), to allow the magnetic element (11) to be slid and adjusted relative to the tool head (50), and to allow the

magnetic element (11) to attract screws (52) to the tool heads (50) of different lengths, and simultaneously, the sliding sleeve (10) includes slant grooves (12, 13) to receive elastic element (30), and to determine front and rear limiting positions of the sliding sleeve (10) relative to the connecting shaft (20), and also to prevent the sliding sleeve (10) from being disengaged from the connecting shaft (20). The applicant's invention is different from that of the cited arts and has improved over the cited arts.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentably distinguishable over the cited arts and that the application is now in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited.

Courtesy and cooperation of Examiner THOMAS are appreciated.

respectfully submitted,

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